

COMBINED DECLARATION/POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled A COMBINATION FLEXIBLE PLANAR ITEM AND CHARACTER, the specification of which (check one)

XX is attached hereto

— was filed on \_\_\_\_\_  
as U.S. Application  
Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

— and was amended on (if  
applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefit(s) under Title 35, United States Code §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed	
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	YES	NO
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	YES	NO
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	YES	NO

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner

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provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
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(Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status-patented, pending, abandoned)
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**POWER OF ATTORNEY:** As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

John L. Rooney, Reg. No. 28,898;  
Lawrence M. Nawrocki, Reg. No. 29,333;  
Wayne A. Sivertson, Reg. No. 25,645;  
Richard C. Stempkowski, Jr., Reg. No. 45,130;  
Jeffery L. Cameron, Reg. No. 43,527; and  
Donald A. Jacobson, Reg. No. 22,308

Send correspondence to:

Lawrence M. Nawrocki  
NAWROCKI, ROONEY & SIVERTSON, P.A.  
Suite 401, Broadway Place East  
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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413  
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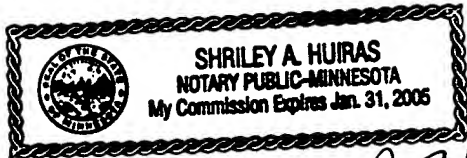
I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon. I further declare that I understand the content of this declaration.

Full name of sole or first inventor Mary M. Ponthan  
Inventor's Signature  Date Oct. 2, 2000  
Residence 4354 Wooddale Avenue South  
St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55424 Citizenship U.S.A.  
Post Office Address 4354 Wooddale Avenue South  
St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55424

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Full name of second or joint inventor David P. Behr  
Inventor's Signature *David P. Behr* Date 10-2-00  
Residence 1136 Wagon Wheel Road  
Hopkins, Minnesota 55343 Citizenship U.S.A.  
Post Office Address 1136 Wagon Wheel Road  
Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Full name of third or joint inventor George R. Larsgard  
Inventor's Signature *George R. Larsgard* Date 10-2-2000  
Residence 10941 Oxborough Avenue South  
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437 Citizenship U.S.A.  
Post Office Address 10941 Oxborough Avenue South  
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437



*Shirley A. Huiras*

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1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or

- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:

- (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
- (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

- (1) Each inventor named in the application;
- (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

(d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.

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Applicant or Patentee: Mary M. Ponthan et al. Attorney's Docket No.: 19420/101/101

Serial or Patent No.: N/A

Filed or Issued: Herewith

For: A COMBINATION FLEXIBLE PLANAR ITEM AND CHARACTER

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY  
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27(c)) -- SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

I hereby declare that I am

- ☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:  
☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act  
on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN MPA INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

ADDRESS OF CONCERN 4354 Wooddale Avenue South

St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55424

I hereby declare that the above-identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, entitled A COMBINATION FLEXIBLE PLANAR ITEM AND CHARACTER by inventor(s) Mary M. Ponthan; David P. Behr and George R. Larsgard described in

- ☒ the specification filed herewith  
☐ application serial no. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ patent no. \_\_\_\_\_, issued \_\_\_\_\_

If the rights held by the above-identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(b) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

\*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in

loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Mary M. Ponthan

TITLE OF PERSON OTHER THAN OWNER President

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 4354 Wooddale Avenue South

St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55424

SIGNATURE

DATE

Oct. 2, 2000

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